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Statement on Rubber and Coal Strikes

I am pleased that negotiators for the United Rubber Workers and Firestone Tire and Rubber Company reached an understanding last night on the basic economic issues related to a new contract. I am hopeful that the parties will be able to agree quickly on the remaining issues so that employees of the rubber companies can return to work and put an end to the economic and human cost of this long strike. Secretary Usery has once again done much through his tireless efforts to assist the parties in demonstrating that labor-management disputes are best resolved through the free collective bargaining process without governmental interference.

I am also pleased at reports that local leaders and members of the United Mine Workers have agreed to begin to return to work. Earlier, President Arnold Miller and the union's executive board had ordered an end to the strike, which was beginning to have a significant impact on the states and localities involved, on the beneficiaries of union pension and welfare funds, and on the economy generally.

August 12, 1976

August 9, 1976

SUBJECT:

LATEST ON STRIKES

Rubber

Has the President's directive to the rubber workers and management produced any developments in terms of reaching an agreement?

GUIDANCE: The rubber workers and manufacturers, as you know, arrived in Washington and met continuously from 10 AM ~~Sat~~ morning until 5 AM this morning. They are currently in recess and will return this afternoon at 2:00 PM.

The President is of course hopeful that a settlement can be reached quickly, and he is being kept informed of developments.

Coal

As the seriousness of the coal mine wildcat strike seems to grow, is the President concerned enough to take action?

GUIDANCE: The President is of course concerned about the continuation of the wildcat strike and the effect on coal production, as well as upon individuals (pensioners). Secretary Ustry is monitoring the developments of the strike and is keeping the President informed.

Background: Over the weekend, three significant developments occurred:

- 1) The wildcatters held a rally; expected 10,000 people, but only 1,000 showed,
- 2) Miller was to meet with the miners, but didn't after receiving purported bomb threats,
- 3) Miller has called a meeting of the International management of the union for today.

August 27, 1975

SUBJECT: COAL MINERS STRIKE IN WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia coal miners have staged a protest march through downtown Charleston, West Virginia. If the strike spreads, it could paralyze the coal industry. These miners are angered by UMW President Arnold Miller's refusal to back the strike.

What's the President's reaction to the wildcat strike by the West Virginia coal miners?

GUIDANCE: Mr. Usery has been consulting with both sides in the matter, the United Mine Workers and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).about the situation.

We are hopeful that the parties can resolve their differences.

JGC

April 16, 1975

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE STRIKE BY THE BROTHERHOOD
OF RAILWAY, AIRLINE, AND STEAM-
SHIP CLERKS AT 12:01 A.M. FRIDAY

Mr. President, do you intend to take any action to prevent the proposed strike of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline, and Steamship employees?

GUIDANCE: I was hoping that the collective bargaining system would work and that there would be no need for federal intervention. However, I have now determine that the dispute could not be resolved prior to the announced strike date set by the union for 12:01 a.m. Friday. Therefore, just prior to coming up here, I signed an Executive Order creating a Presidential Emergency Board to investigate and report on the current dispute between employees of the nation's railroads and the National Railway Labor Conference.

Under the Emergency Board procedures of the Railway Labor Act, the Board will report its findings to me by May 16, 1975. The parties must then consider the findings of the Emergency Board and try to resolve their differences during a subsequent 30 day period.

Why did you intervene? Why didn't you let the normal labor management relations run their course?

GUIDANCE: In the judgment of the National Mediation Board, this dispute threatens substantially to interrupt inter-state commerce to such a degree as to deprive a section of the country of essential transportation services. Therefore, I thought it was essential to create the Board to investigate this matter.

Who will be the Chairman of the Board and who are the other members?

GUIDANCE: Alexander B. Porter will be the Chairman, with James M. Harkless and the Rev. Francis X. Quinn as the other members.

Under what authority are you able to intervene in a dispute such as this?

GUIDANCE: Section 10 of the Railway Labor Act gives me such authority.

JGC

April 15, 1975

SUBJECT:

RAILWAY AND AIRLINE CLERKS
VOTE TO STRIKE

The Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks are preparing for a nationwide railroad strike at 12:01 a.m. Friday.

Will President Ford invoke the Taft-Hartley Act and block a strike for 60 days? Does the President plan to appoint a fact-finding board to investigate the dispute?

GUIDANCE: I'm not aware that the President has made any final decisions. We would like to rely on the collective bargaining process, and I know that the President will be consulting with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Transportation. However, at this point, to my knowledge, the President has made no final decision.

JGC

January 6, 1975

SUBJECT:

OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC
WORKERS MAY STRIKE .

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic workers contract expires at midnight, Tuesday, January 7. There is a very likely possibility that no agreement will be reached and the workers will strike. The OCA is involved in refinery production which could have serious effects on oil production.

Will the Administration intervene to prevent the OCA from striking?

GUIDANCE: We feel the collective bargaining process is working, and we'll have no further comment at this time.

FYI: The President received a memo from Frank Zarb on this in which Zarb recommended we avoid any comment and express confidence that the collective bargaining process works. END FYI.

JGC